

IN THE CLAIMS

The following is a complete listing of the claims, and replaces all earlier versions and listings.

1. (Currently Amended) A control method for a home office system that includes user terminal devices each of which includes a display device, said method comprising:

a monitoring step, of monitoring whether or not a period when a concentration of a user is continuously toward the display device is longer than a predetermined time, based on an image of the user picked up by a camera; and

a control step, of automatically changing a display on the display device to a display of a common virtual space for rest by informally communicating with other users when it is determined that the user should take a rest, based on a result obtained in said monitoring step that the concentration of the user is continuously toward the display device for ~~a period~~ longer than ~~[[a]]~~ the predetermined time set by the user in advance, so that the user may informally communicate with other users present in the common virtual space for rest.

2. (Canceled).

3. (Currently Amended) A computer-readable storage medium storing a program for a user terminal device of a home office system including a display device, the program comprising:

code for a monitoring step, of monitoring whether or not a period when a concentration of a user is continuously toward the display device is longer than a predetermined time, based on an image of the user picked up by a camera; and

code for a control step, of automatically changing a display on the display device to a display of a common virtual space for rest by informally communicating with other users when it is determined that the user should take a rest, based on a result obtained in said monitoring step that the concentration of the user is continuously toward the display device for a period longer than ~~[[a]]~~ the predetermined time set by the user in advance, so that the user may informally communicate with other users present in the common virtual space for rest.

4. (Canceled).

5. (Currently Amended) A control apparatus for a virtual system, which includes plural user terminal devices and a host server device connected to the plural user terminal devices through a communication network, said control apparatus comprising:

a monitoring unit arranged to monitor whether or not a period when a concentration of a user is continuously toward the display device is longer than a predetermined time, based on an image of the user picked up by a camera; and

a control unit arranged to automatically change a display on the display device to a display of a common virtual space for rest by informally communicating with other users when it is determined that the user should take a rest, based on a result

obtained by said monitoring unit that the concentration of the user is continuously toward the display device for a ~~period~~ longer than ~~[[a]]~~ the predetermined time set by the user in advance.

6. (Previously Presented) An apparatus according to Claim 5, further comprising an imaging unit arranged to image the user, wherein said monitoring unit monitors a state of the user based on an image of the user outputted from said imaging unit.

7. (Previously Presented) An apparatus according to Claim 6, wherein said monitoring unit monitors a face direction of the user, and said control unit moves the user to another virtual space in a case in which the user looks toward the user's user terminal device a predetermined number of times or for a predetermined time.

8. (Canceled).

9. (Previously Presented) An apparatus according to Claim 5, further comprising an imaging unit arranged to image the user, wherein
said imaging unit includes a voice sound information obtaining unit for obtaining voice sound information,

said monitoring unit monitors an emotion of the user based on the voice sound information obtained by the voice sound information obtaining unit, and

said control unit moves the user to another virtual space if it is judged that the user is in a stress condition, in accordance with a recognition result obtained by said monitoring unit.

10. (Previously Presented) An apparatus according to Claim 7, wherein the other virtual space is a space used for taking a cooperative rest.

11. (Previously Presented) An apparatus according to Claim 5, wherein the user's user terminal device includes a transmission unit arranged to transmit information of the user to the host server device, and

said monitoring unit, which is provided in the host server device, monitors a state of the user based on the information transmitted from the user's user terminal device.

12.-19. (Canceled).